U.S. $ 252.37 million have been exported duringApril-October, 2001. Silk exports have shown a declining trend due mainly because of the recessionary trend in the international market. Full achievement of the target depends on the favourable trend in the international market.

Non payment of salary to workers of NTC mills in Maharashtra

744.SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20,000 workers of N.T.C. mills in Maharashtra have not received their salary and other benefits and if so, since when;

(b) what is the total amount involved; and

(c) what steps Government are going to take to safeguard the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The workers of NTC mills in Maharashtra have been paid wages up to January, 2002.

(c) Since NTC subsidiaries in Maharashtra generate about I/4th of their wage/salary requirements through production activities, Government has been providing budgetary support to meet the shortfall in wages/salaries. Such provision is proposed to be continued during the 2-year implementation period of the rehabilitation schemes under approval of B1FR after which the units are expected to generate sufficient cash surpluses to meet such liabilities.

Closure of textile units in Punjab

745.SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of textile units have been closed down in Punjab during last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the proposal of Government to re-open the textile units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) During the last five years *(i.e.* from 1-1-1997 to 31-12-2001), nine cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) have closed down in the State of Punjab.